

Media Release

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Vance Leavy, Executive Vice President of The Brunswick News, Is Georgia's 2005 Small Business Journalist of the Year *--He and his Newspaper Promote Development of Local Small Businesses--*

C. Vance Leavy has been selected the 2005 Small Business Journalist of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Leavy received his award yesterday from Terri L. Denison, SBA Georgia District Director, at a luncheon hosted by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle. He was nominated for his statewide award by the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center in Brunswick.

Leavy also received the SBA Southeast Regional Award as the Small Business Journalist of the Year. This award was presented by SBA Regional Administrator Nuby Fowler at the luncheon held at the Commerce Club in downtown Atlanta.



Terri Denison, C. Vance Leavy, Vance's wife Cheri,
and Vance's mother Sudy Leavy

Since he joined the management of the newspaper, Leavy has volunteered many hours of service working with the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce and the local University of Georgia Small Business Development Center on programs that small business owners can use to help run their businesses more successfully. Leavy has also used the resources of the newspaper to keep small business issues at the forefront of his community.

For many years, the Chamber of Commerce mailed its printed newsletter, "The Chamber Clipper," to its membership of over 700 business owners. Beginning in 2000, The Brunswick News allowed the Chamber to distribute its bi-monthly newsletter as an insert in the paper. Now over 15,000 copies are distributed every other month to members and non-members alike, saving the Chamber money and increasing the exposure of its program to the entire community.

The newspaper's Business Section strives to feature stories on area businesses along with a weekly column by Economics Professor Don Matthews of the Coastal Georgia Community College.

Matthews' column deals with business related issues that are important to the Brunswick small business community.

In addition, The Brunswick News publishes free of charge public service announcements from the Small Business Development Center in Brunswick on its workshops and other programs. Evaluation forms indicate that the majority of attendees learn of the SBDC training courses from The Brunswick News.

As both Executive Vice President and Advertising Director, Leavy helped introduce the newspaper's web site and a number of special sections to the daily editions. He also reorganized the paper's Advertising Department and established a St. Simons office for The Brunswick News. In other community service, Leavy served as a member of the Police and Fire Merger Committee for Brunswick and Glynn County.

Leavy and his brother, Company President C.H. "Buff" Leavy IV, are the fourth generation of owner/operators at The Brunswick News. Prior to joining the paper's management, Vance Leavy earned a B.A. Degree in History from the University of Georgia in 1995.

In other recognition, The Brunswick News was named the 2002 Georgia Family Business of the Year by the Cox Family Center at the Coles College of Business, Kennesaw State University.

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